

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the Abstract was objected to for beginning with the phrase "An objective is to provide". Accordingly, by this response the Abstract has been amended and is believed to conform with all Patent Office requirements.

Referring to the claims rejections, it is noted that Claims 1, 2, and 5 were rejected as being anticipated by the cited McGarvey patent, while Claim 4 was rejected as being obvious in view of the McGarvey reference when combined with the cited Lin patent. Although Applicant believes that all of the claims are patentable over the disclosure of the McGarvey patent, there is filed herewith a sworn translation of Applicant's priority document, and it is noted that the sworn translation antedates the McGarvey reference. That is, the priority document for the present application, Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-319718, was filed on October 19, 2000, whereas the filing date of the McGarvey patent was January 12, 2001.

Accordingly, the McGarvey patent does not constitute prior art applicable against the claims of the present application. For these reasons it is believed the claims are allowable and Applicant solicits a Notice of Allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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